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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Call of Cargo Ship to Ventspils

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SOURCE Officer of an Icelandic merchant ship.

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- Port Security:** The Icelandic cargo ship, arriving in Vindva (Ventspils) with a cargo of frozen fish on 5 January 1954, was boarded just outside the harbor entrance by a pilot who brought the ship to her berth along the Elevator Quay. The searching party, consisting of an unknown number of men with side arms, came aboard at dockside and made a thorough search of the ship for an hour and a half. A search of similar duration was made before the ship sailed. During the searches, the crew was mustered in the ship's salon while the searchers proceeded unescorted. Radio silence was maintained and cameras were locked in a safe. The crew were permitted to go ashore.
- Hydrography:** The maximum depth of water is believed to be 22 feet. A range consisting of two iron beacons (lighted at night) guides ships entering the harbor. The seaward of the two beacons is smaller and lower. The only buoy observed was outside the harbor in line with the range beacons and about one-tenth of a nautical mile from the harbor entrance. With this exception, all buoys in the port area have been removed. The ship, drawing about 20 feet, was berthed along the Elevator Quay at two different positions, one at either end of the wharf.
- Naval Vessels:** One submarine was present in Vindva. In addition there were an estimated 15 to 20 destroyer or destroyer-escort type vessels moored along the south bank of the Venta River by the town of Vindva. They appeared to be fully manned. From 10 to 20 motor torpedo boats or similar craft were sighted lying out of the water in the same general area.
- Miscellaneous:** All merchant vessels sighted were believed to be Soviet. Occasional sightings were made of piston-engine aircraft, but no jet-engine aircraft were observed during the six-day period. Waterfront facilities were old but not in a bad condition. Some buildings showed bomb damage, but no new construction was apparent.

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